UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/EA.1/INF/3/Add.1

Distr.: General
9 June 2014

English only

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
First session
Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Nairobi, 23–27 June 2014

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of United Nations summits, in particular the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and major intergovernmental meetings of relevance to the United Nations Environment Assembly

Results of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly of relevance to the United Nations Environment Assembly

Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 67/226

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note provides information on follow-up to General Assembly resolution 67/226. It outlines the measures taken and progress achieved by the United Nations Environment Programme as a non-resident organization of the United Nations system in implementing the management process for the implementation of the resolution.

* UNEP/EA.1/1.

K1401179 180614

1. General Assembly resolution 67/226, on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for the development of the United Nations system, emphasized the importance attached by Member States to enhanced system-wide coherence as a strategy for improving the effectiveness of the United Nations development system as a whole.

2. In line with the main thrust of the resolution, at the heart of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) medium-term strategy for the period 2014–2017 are objectives of greater efficiency, greater transparency and the enhanced use of performance information for improved management decision-making. In setting out the programmes of work for the bienniums 2014–2015 and 2016–2017, UNEP took into account the quadrennial review recommendations for improving United Nations effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact on development in developing countries. UNEP is paying particular attention to ways in which it can leverage further impact through development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system, including by increasing its participation in United Nations country teams. Capacity-building and the facilitation of technology development and sharing in countries underpins the delivery of all UNEP support to countries, in line with the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building.

3. The quadrennial review and resolution 67/226 set new standards for assessing the effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of United Nations operational development activities. Key features of the resolution include:

(a) Some 178 mandates requiring action by various actors;

(b) Some 143 mandates addressed to United Nations system entities, including 22 to the Secretary-General; 4 to United Nations resident coordinators and country teams; and 9 to the Economic and Social Council, the executive boards of funds and programmes and the governing bodies of the specialized agencies;

(c) Some 42 actions that are time-specific, 29 that require reporting and 20 that involve the development of policies and processes.

4. With the resolution, the General Assembly has formulated a strategic direction for the United Nations development system that includes what needs to be achieved and how United Nations entities will need to function in order successfully to support programme countries in a changing development landscape.

5. There is also a strong intergovernmental recognition of the United Nations "Delivering as one" model, although it remains a voluntary nationally-led option. As at March 2014, 37 countries had formally requested the United Nations to adopt the "Delivering as one" approach to their development assistance. From 2007 until the end of 2013, UNEP supported the mainstreaming of environmental sustainability into 96 United Nations development assistance frameworks. For the 2014–2016 programming cycle, over 100 development assistance frameworks will be prepared. Throughout its programmes of work, UNEP articulates its planned engagement in operational activities for development in each of the subprogrammes.

6. In the resolution, the General Assembly requested the funds and programmes of the United Nations to implement decisions in a number of areas through time-bound actions, requiring United Nations entities and inter-agency mechanisms to ensure timely and full implementation. Several key steps have already been taken to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and impact of United Nations operational activities in the area of development.

7. At the intergovernmental level, in resolution 68/1 the General Assembly agreed upon far-reaching measures to strengthen the Economic and Social Council, including, among other means, by changing the timing of its operational activities for development segment within the Council cycle. Those measures aim to enable the Council to provide better overall coordination and guidance to operational development funds and programmes on a system-wide basis, including with regard to objectives, priorities and strategies in the implementation of the policies formulated by the Assembly. The UNEP Executive Director, in his capacity as Chair of the High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, addressed the Economic and Social Council operational activities for development segment in February 2014.

8. In response to the request of the Council in its resolution 2013/5, a new single coherent quadrennial review monitoring and reporting framework has been developed by the Department of Economic and

Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Group and other United Nations entities, with full ownership by the United Nations development system. The framework contains a set of 99 results-oriented indicators that respond to the General Assembly's request for actions, including those with detailed timelines. It has direct linkages to the new strategic plans of the funds and programmes, which have been aligned with the quadrennial review.

9. Resolution 67/226 provides clear and constructive guidance to the United Nations system on the need to increase its efficiency, transparency and cost effectiveness. Overall, the resolution includes the following key messages:

(a) System-wide coherence should be enhanced, and the "Delivering as one" approach was formally recognized;

(b) It is important to increase the efficiency of United Nations operational activities for development;

(c) Trends in the core/non-core funding imbalance are not sustainable;

(d) The accountability of the United Nations development system to Member States regarding results and impacts requires strengthening;

(e) Sustainable development should be mainstreamed into United Nations development operations;

(f) Normative and operational linkages in the United Nations development system need to be strengthened.

10. The United Nations Development Group has developed a common action plan for the implementation and monitoring of resolution 67/226. While all quadrennial review mandates will be addressed by the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations, as appropriate, the United Nations Development Group action plan endeavours to prioritize those mandates for collective action by the Group. The action plan focuses on 28 main priority areas. UNEP contributes to the action plan though its participation in global, regional and national inter-agency coordination mechanisms.

11. The following table, which is based on a matrix prepared by the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, lists some of the operative paragraphs of resolution 67/226 in response to which specific follow-up might be considered.

Paragraph	*Actor*	*Abbreviated description of mandate*	*Timeline*
163	Governing bodies of specialized agencies and other relevant United Nations entities	Review and discuss the provisions in subsection IV E of the resolution (Simplification and harmonization of business practices) with a view to promoting their implementation by the respective entities and improving harmonization with funds and programmes	2013
169	Governing bodies of specialized agencies and other relevant United Nations entities	Engage in a focused dialogue on how to balance most effectively the need for reporting on system-wide results at all levels with current agency-specific reporting requirements	2013
183	Governing bodies of United Nations funds and programmes	Take appropriate actions for the full implementation of resolution 67/226	From 2013 onward
15	United Nations system	Improve management of facilities and operations by taking into account sustainable development practices	From 2013 onward
21	United Nations system	Work consistently across United Nations entities by enhancing system-wide coordination within programme countries and between the national, regional and global levels	From 2013 onward
42	United Nations system	Consolidate all available and projected financial contributions for operational activities for development of the United Nations System at the country level within a common budgetary framework	From 2013 onward

Paragraph	*Actor*	*Abbreviated description of mandate*	*Timeline*
58	United Nations system	Strengthen normative and operational linkages with a view to promoting sustainable development outcomes	From 2013 onward
58	United Nations system	Support programme countries in building national capacity for inclusive, equitable, participatory, transparent and accountable national development processes	From 2013 onward
65	United Nations system	Support the promotion and transfer of new and emerging technologies to programme countries	From 2013 onward
74	United Nations system	Mainstream support for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation into regular country-level programming of United Nations operational activities for development and strengthen support mechanisms at the global and regional levels	From 2013 onward
99	United Nations system	Further strengthen the coordination role of the resident coordinator humanitarian coordinator	From 2013 onward
105	United Nations system	Strengthen coordination with Bretton Woods institutions	From 2013 onward
14	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and other relevant entities	Enhance mainstreaming of sustainable development into the mandates, programmes, strategies and decision-making processes of funds, programmes and specialized agencies	From 2013 onward
35	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Adopt concrete measure to improve the donor base	Reporting at first regular session in 2014
36	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Improve communications to general public on mandates and development results, recognizing the significant core contributions of Governments to the resources of those organizations, and provide information on efforts made in their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council	From 2013 onward
37	United Nations funds and programmes	Actively engage with Bretton Woods institutions with a view to diversifying potential sources of funding, especially core funding	From 2013 onward
39	United Nations funds and programmes	Define common principles and present specific proposals for the concept of "critical mass" of core resources and present specific proposal to governing bodies for decision	Analysis completed by end 2013 with decision-making in 2014
42	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Provide the necessary information on contributions to the resident coordinators upon agreement with programme countries	From 2013 onward
47	United Nations funds and programmes	Harmonize cost classification methodology in particular with regard to classification of costs relating to programme and non-programme activities	From 2013 onward
48	United Nations funds and programmes	Ensure that the guiding principle governing the financing of all non-programme costs is full cost recovery, proportionately from core and non-core funding resources	From 2013 onward
54	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Include estimated cost recovery amounts in budgets and report on actual amounts recovered as part of regular financial reporting	From 2013 onward
56	United Nations funds and programmes	Pursue reductions in management costs in order to minimize the necessary cost recovery rate for non-core-funded	From 2013 onward

Paragraph	*Actor*	*Abbreviated description of mandate*	*Timeline*
		activities	
64	United Nations Organizations	Adopt measures to ensure sustainability in capacity-building activities and use and strengthen to the fullest extent possible national execution/implementation and available national expertise and technologies and avoid wherever possible the establishment of parallel implementation units outside of national institutions	From 2013 onward
79	Heads of United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and the regional commissions	Pay special attention to implementation of South-south cooperation projects managed or supported by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation	From 2013 onward
108	United Nations Organizations	Integrate disaster risk reduction into activities, including measures aimed at restoring and improving services and infrastructure	From 2013 onward
110	United Nations entities and other relevant partners	Give due consideration to prevention, preparedness and disaster risk reduction activities by supporting national and local efforts in that regard	From 2013 onward
119	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Consult, inform and discuss with governing bodies progress achieved in simplifying and harmonizing agency-specific programming instruments and processes and United Nations development assistance frameworks at the country level	In 2013
121	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Carry out the changes required to align the planning and budgeting cycles with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review	From 2013 onward
130 (c)	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Implement paragraph 37 (c) of resolution 50/120, requesting that the resident coordinators provide formal input to the regular performance appraisals of all entity representatives who are members of country teams on their contributions to their effective and efficient functioning based on a mutual appraisal between the resident coordinators and the members of the country teams in the performance assessment process	From 2013 onward
135	Member States and United Nations funds and programmes (as appropriate)	Contribute financially to pooled funding mechanisms intended to advance "Delivering as one" with a view to ensuring the extension of those mechanisms	From 2013 onward
146	United Nations regional commissions, funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other entities at the regional level	Further strengthen cooperation and coordination among themselves and with their respective headquarters and, where appropriate, include funds, programmes and specialized agencies that are not represented at the regional level	From 2013 onward
153	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Further invest in intra-agency rationalization of business operations	In 2013
154	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Develop and conclude inter-agency framework agreements regarding the provision of support services at the country level and delegate the authority to country teams to establish and manage common services and long-term agreements with third parties through standardized inter-agency agreements without the need for further approvals	In 2013
160	United Nations funds and programmes	Achieve full interoperability of enterprise resources planning systems with the objective of harmonizing business processes and practices	By 2016

Paragraph	*Actor*	*Abbreviated description of mandate*	*Timeline*
174	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Develop evaluation plans that are aligned with new strategic plans and are an integrated part of monitoring systems	From 2013 onward
178	United Nations entities engaged in system-wide evaluation (the Joint Inspection Unit, the United Nations Evaluation Group, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	Enhance coordination and the exchange of experience in the area of system-wide evaluation of United Nations operational activities for development	From 2013 onward
182	United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Intensify the use and evaluation of United Nations development assistance frameworks and the evaluation of United Nations system-wide contributions to national development results	From 2013 onward
183	Executive heads of United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies	Submit a yearly progress report to their governing bodies on measures taken and envisaged for the implementation of resolution 67/226, including appropriate recommendations	From 2013 onward